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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Cyberattacked

South Korean officials are on the hunt for answers after computer networks at major banks and top TV broadcasters crashed en masse Wednesday PAGE 4

The next level

The Huskies' Lisa Thomaidis looks to build on the 'great momentum' of Canada's senior women's basketball team after being named head coach PAGE 14

FALLING HEMLINES

DESIGNERS THINKING PINK, LADY-LIKE, OVERSIZED AND FUR— LOTS AND LOTS OF FUR — FOR FALL FASHION PAGE 11

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Liquor, cigarettes to cost more as budget unveiled

Sask. shows restraint. Projected drop in resource revenue a factor in province's balanced spending plan

ROSS ROMANIUK
Metro in Regina

Cigarettes and liquor will cost more in Saskatchewan under a government budget that projects less resource revenue to use for balancing the books in the year ahead.

"It balances the priorities of Saskatchewan people," Finance Minister Ken Krawetz said Wednesday before tabling the Saskatchewan Party's budget at the legislature.

"At a time when most jurisdictions in Canada continue to struggle with large deficits and mounting debt, Saskatchewan's finances remain sound."

The blueprint for the 2013-14 fiscal year calls for a tobacco tax hike of four cents per cigarette as of Thursday. Liquor will be hit with an approximately three per cent tax increase across all beverage categories beginning April 1.

The $11.54-billion budget includes a 7.6 per cent increase for infrastructure projects, for a total of $847.5 million.

But an overall 2.1 per cent hike in base operating funds for the province's universities falls short of what the University of Regina has said it needs.

"We'll try to mitigate any layoffs as best we can," said U of R president Vianne Timmons.

"We've been through attrition and reducing our workforce, and we'll continue to do so."

Ilene Busch-Vishniac, president of the University of Saskatchewan, said her university has "done quite well" with its provincial funding, though it's also eyeing layoffs and cuts in programs.

"In addition," she said, "we're reviewing all of our programs and services to make sure that we set priorities and that our resources match our priorities."

Krawetz noted that a projected drop in revenue to $2.67 billion from non-renewable resources, including potash and oil, from $3.15 billion in last year's budget is a key reason for tightening the belt.

NDP finance critic Trent Wotherspoon charged that the "credit card" budget doesn't cut into the province's $3.8-billion debt, and is short $54 million of what the health regions and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency need.

Saskatchewan Finance Minister Ken Krawetz tables the 2013 provincial budget at the legislature in Regina on Wednesday. LIAM RICHARDS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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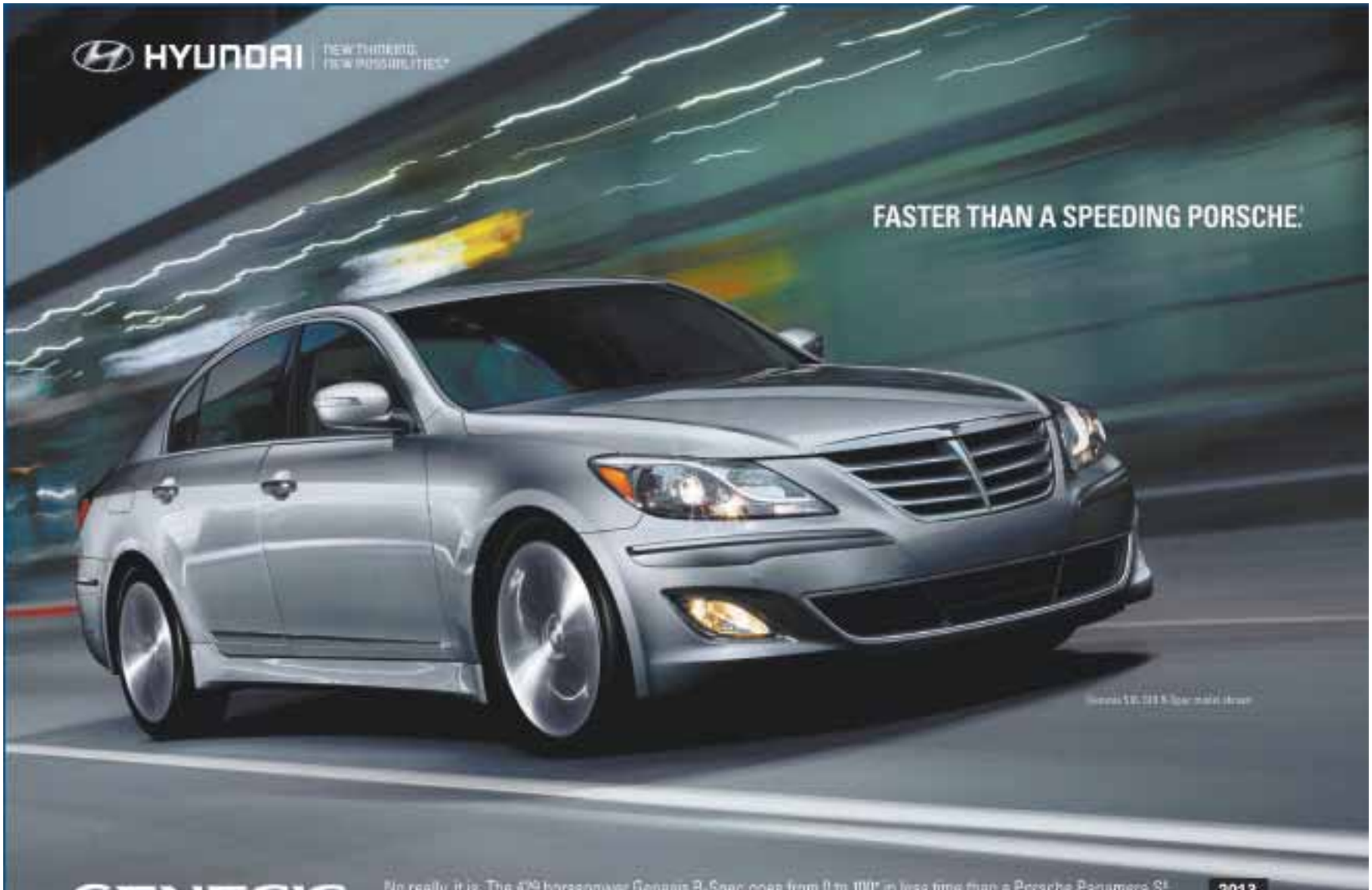

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Local entrepreneur hopes Dragons bite on Melon Bra

'Excited.'
Ed Onishenko is aiming to get support for his invention from hit CBC show's panel of investors

A few years ago Ed Onishenko invented the Melon Bra, a novelty bra made to complement the melon helmet Saskatchewan Roughriders fans wear to show off their Rider pride.

And now, Onishenko is aiming to get some support for his bra from the investors on CBC's Dragons' Den.

"I'm totally excited," said Onishenko. "I'm looking forward to Dragons' Den and I can't wait to get there. Even the producer is excited for us to come."

Onishenko, a retired Saskatoon firefighter, will be asking the Dragons for $50,000 for 50 per cent of his business. He hopes the fact that he donates a portion of bra sales to breast-cancer research will help win over the heart of at least one investor.

"I think Arlene Dickinson will definitely like my product," said Onishenko. "It's important that we give back to the community and donate to breast-cancer research. Everybody knows someone who is touched by cancer."

Onishenko, who also wrote a children's book on fire safety, is an entrepreneur at heart and calls his business a fun hobby to do in his retirement, adding that he will be keeping an open mind when he faces the Dragons.

"If something happens — great. If not, then we just gave it our best shot," said Onishenko.

Onishenko will be face-to-face with the Dragons on their home turf for a taping on March 28, but it's not yet known whether and when the Melon-Bra pitch will be televised.

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

Entrepreneur and retired Saskatoon firefighter Ed Onishenko stands in front of a fire truck wearing his invention: the Melon Bra. Onishenko is hoping the novelty — made to go along with the melon helmet worn by Riders fans — will get financial backing on CBC's Dragons' Den later this month. JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

Residents in province opting for tap water

Recent data from Statistics Canada says that 76 per cent of people in Saskatchewan choose to drink tap water rather than bottled water.
JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

More people in Saskatchewan are ditching bottled water in favour of good old-fashioned tap water, according to data recently released by Statistics Canada.

According to the numbers, 76 per cent of Saskatchewan residents chose to drink tap water in 2011 — an 11 per cent increase from 2008.

Ken Cheveldayoff, Saskatchewan's minister of environment and the minister responsible for the Water Security Agency and the Saskatchewan Water Corporation, said more people are choosing tap water for a variety of reasons, including an increased trust in water quality.

"People have become more environmentally aware and they are more sensitive to problems of pollution caused by plastic bottles, including bottled water," said Cheveldayoff. "People are also cost-conscious, and bottled water can be relatively expensive.

"People also know that tap water is highly regulated, with extensive monitoring and testing, and this increases consumer confidence," he said.

With World Water Day happening this Friday, Cheveldayoff said that it's good to know Saskatchewan residents trust what he calls the province's "most precious natural resource."

"It's about making sure that resource is used in a responsible manner," he said. "I think really what people are starting to realize is that bottled water is not healthier than the less costly and highly regulated tap water.

"The theme of the 2013 World Water Day is co-operation, and that's a really important point in Saskatchewan," he added. "Our challenge is to keep the economy growing but to ensure that we are stewards of water."

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

Cost-saving measures

Western Development Museum to reopen on Mondays

With a clean bill of financial health, the Western Development Museum will open its doors on Mondays once again.

Starting on April 1, Western Development Museum (WDM) locations in Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Saskatoon and Yorkton will reopen their doors to the public on Mondays after reducing hours in an attempt to balance the museum's budget.

A release from the museum explained that cutting the hours, alongside several other initiatives, was successful in addressing the budget shortfall, and the WDM has managed to absorb costs associated with inflation and eliminate its deficit.

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the museum will continue to implement a number of cost-saving measures and several new initiatives designed to increase the museum's self-generated revenue. METRO

On the web

For more local news, go to metronews.ca.

Money Sense Magazine

Saskatoon 5th best mid-sized Canadian city to live in: Survey

Saskatoon is one of Canada's best mid-sized cities to live in, according to MoneySense magazine.

According to a press release from MoneySense, Saskatoon was ranked fifth out of 46 mid-sized cities, with Burlington, Ont., occupying the No. 1 spot.

The Best Places to Live in Canada rankings is a data-based snapshot of Canadian cities. Dozens of factors are taken into consideration, including unemployment rates, taxes, income and home prices.

Alongside financial factors, the rankings also examine a number of livability factors, including weather, crime and access to health care.

METRO

Networks crash at S. Korean banks, media companies

Cyberattack. North Korea is suspected of being behind the attack that paralyzed ATMs across South Korea

An employee works near a computer with an error message at the Seoul newsroom of all-news cable channel YTN as the South Korean broadcaster's computer network was paralyzed on Wednesday. Computer networks at major South Korean banks and top TV broadcasters crashed en masse. YONHAP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A cyberattack caused computer networks at major South Korean banks and top TV broadcasters to crash simultaneously Wednesday, paralyzing bank machines across the country and prompting speculation of North Korean involvement.

Screens went blank at 2 p.m., the state-run Korea Information Security Agency said, and more than seven hours later some systems were still down.

Police and South Korean officials couldn't immediately determine responsibility and North Korea's state media made no immediate comments on the shutdown. But some experts suspected a cyberattack orchestrated by Pyongyang. The rivals have exchanged threats amid joint U.S.-South Korean military drills and in the wake of UN sanctions meant to punish North Korea over its nuclear test last month.

The network paralysis took place just days after North Korea accused South Korea and the U.S. of staging a cyberattack that shut down its websites for two days last week. Loxley Pacific, the Thailand-based Internet service provider, confirmed the North Korean outage but did not say what caused it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2011 massacre

Norway sets $19M to fight terror

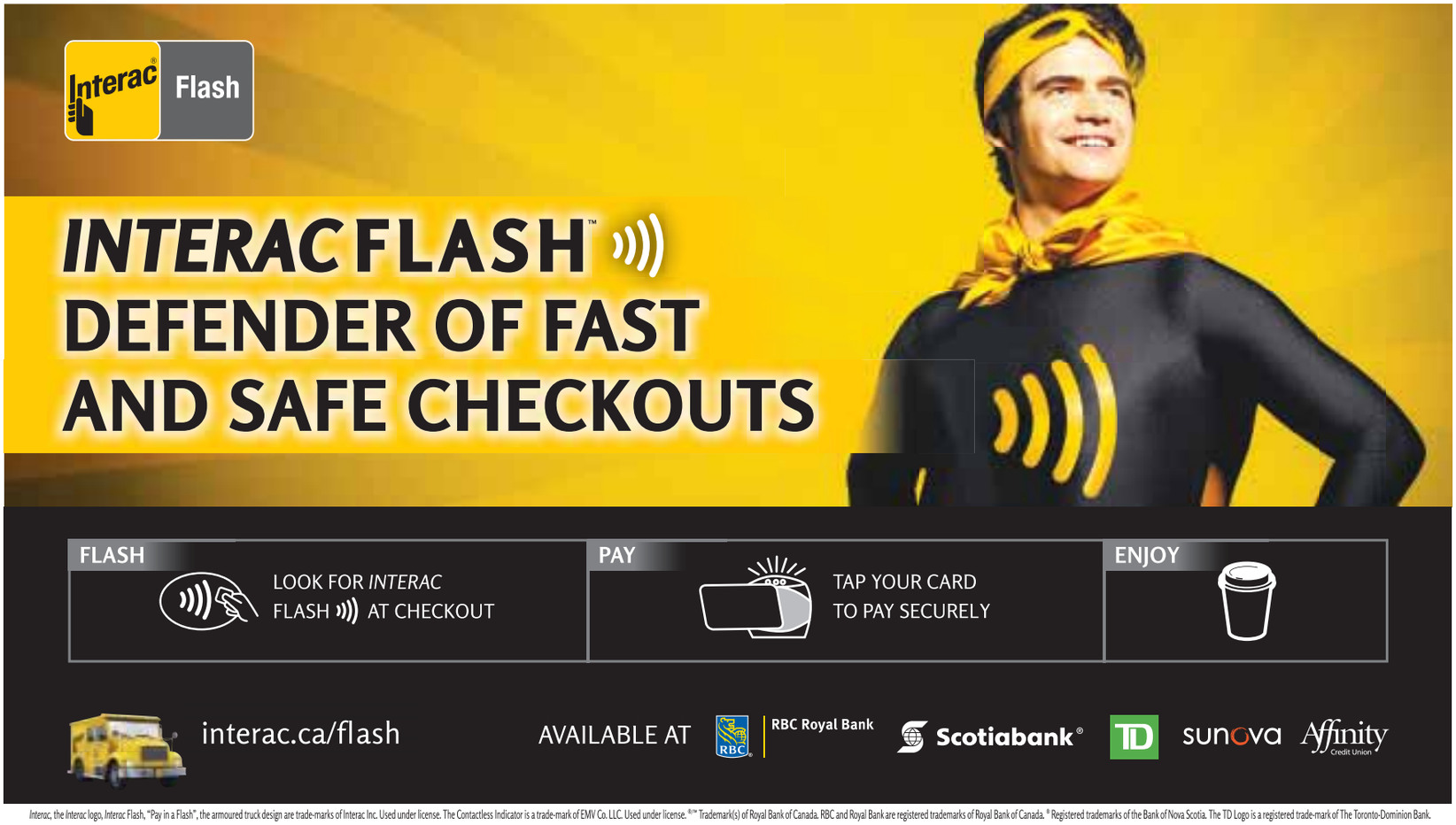
The Norwegian government has pledged an extra 109 million kroner ($19.4 million) this year to improve terror preparedness following the July 22, 2011, massacre when a right-wing extremist killed 77 people in a bomb attack and shooting rampage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Potential arms race

N. Korean bank sanctions sought

A senior Republican lawmaker pushing for tougher U.S. banking sanctions on North Korea says the isolated nation's development of a nuclear weapon could trigger an atomic arms race in East Asia. House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Ed Royce said Wednesday that South Korea, Japan and Taiwan might seek nuclear weapons if Pyongyang miniaturizes a nuclear warhead it can mount on a missile. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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First Nations alliance set against pipelines

Environment. Chiefs from Canada and U.S. determined to 'save whatever we have left'

An alliance of First Nations leaders is preparing to fight proposed new pipelines in the courts and through unspecified direct action.

Native leaders from Canada and the United States were on Parliament Hill on Wednesday to underline opposition to both the Northern Gateway and Keystone XL pipelines.

The first would tie the Alberta oilsands to the West Coast, while the second would send bitumen to the Gulf Coast.

Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver said the federal government is "making every effort" to respond to concerns.

Philip Lane Jr., of the U.S. Yankton Sioux Nation THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I've had quite a few conversations with aboriginal leaders," he said. "They want to do the best for their communities, and we want to do the best for their communities as well."

Some chiefs brushed off the federal government's appointment this week of an envoy to look at tensions between natives and the energy industry.

Lawyer Doug Eyford is to focus on energy infrastructure in Western Canada.

Some chiefs, however, said Eyford has already failed. Although he is also the federal government's chief negotiator on comprehensive land claims, they said he hasn't accomplished much on that file.

Chief Martin Louie of the Nadleh Whut'en First Nation in northern B.C. said the alliance will never back down. He said the stakes are high and go beyond native issues.

"We're the ones that are going to save whatever we have left of this earth," he said.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt said he hopes no one resorts to violence.

Chief Reuben George of the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation on Vancouver Island said it's time to act against the federal government's resource development agenda.

"We have to wake up to the crazy decisions that this government's making to change the world in a negative way," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conviction

"We're going to stop these pipelines, one way or another."

Philip Lane Jr., of the American Yankton Sioux Nation

A confident reply by MP Justin Trudeau on Tuesday night. CONTRIBUTED/IMGUR.COM; INSET: FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Just watch me' defeat Harper: Justin Trudeau

Forty-two years after it was first uttered — in very different circumstances — the Trudeau challenge is back.

"Just watch me," Justin Trudeau scribbled in a note on Tuesday night, when a fellow passenger on his flight asked whether the Liberal leadership contender could defeat Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

"Justin, can you really beat Harper?" Michael Kydd wrote on a note he passed to Trudeau. "Wishing you all the best!"

Trudeau replied by invoking his father's famous phrase during the FLQ crisis of 1970, when a band of Quebec separatists kidnapped a British diplomat and a cabinet minister.

Then-prime minister Pierre Trudeau was asked by a reporter how far he would go in the suspension of civil liberties during the crisis.

"Well, just watch me," he said at the time.

It turns out Kydd will be "just watching" Trudeau, however. Kydd acknowledged he's a lifelong Conservative.

Harper's communications director, Andrew MacDougall, was having some fun, too, on Wednesday. MacDougall put out his own scribbled note. A photo was posted on Twitter with a question: "Hey Andrew, what do you think about Justin Trudeau's 'just watch me' quote? Best, Dom."

The reply: "Hey Dom: Fuddle Duddle! Andrew."

("Fuddle duddle" was what Pierre Trudeau claimed he said during a stormy session in the Commons. Others said it was a well-known obscenity.)

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$2.4-billion hike

Nuclear waste spikes deficit by $2.4 billion

A sudden $2.4-billion revision to Canada's nuclear liabilities has crept up on Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and substantially deepened the deficit for the current fiscal year.

Atomic Energy of Canada quietly announced Tuesday night that the expected long-term cost for disposing of nuclear waste has risen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Federal appeal

Court told ban on assisted suicide akin to 'torture'

Forcing patients to suffer agonizing deaths without the power to ask a doctor to end their lives is like "torture," a lawyer told the B.C. Court of Appeal Wednesday.

Joseph Arvay said the ban leads patients to end their lives early because they know they won't receive help if they become debilitated later.

The appeal stems from a decision last year that found the federal law banning assisted suicide unconstitutional.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Social media giants ignoring Canadian privacy laws: Report

Personal data. Sites are supposed to let users know what information is being collected about them — but they rarely do, a researcher says

LUKE SIMCOE
luke.simcoe@metronews.ca

Many of the most prominent social-media companies are failing to comply with Canadian privacy laws, says a new report.

The study, authored by University of Victoria researcher Chris Parsons, found sites like Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr are "lacking at best, and entirely negligent at worst," when it comes to things like letting users know what kind of information is collected about them.

Schedule 1 of Canada's Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act requires social networking sites, upon request, to hand over information about "the existence, use and disclosure of ... personal information."

However, when Parsons and his colleague filed such requests, only six of the 18 companies queried even responded, and those that did either refused to provide any information or offered incomplete data.

While Google, Facebook and Twitter do provide automated methods for users to access their information, Parsons says users are still unable to get all of their personal information. In particular, he and his colleagues found they weren't given the "metadata" that companies attached to their social-media posts. "We argue that metadata is content," he said. "And when we understand the metadata, we can understand how corporations and law enforcement use that data."

For example, metadata can tell a company like Facebook or Twitter how often you're upgrading your cellphone or what kind of computer you're using. This information can then be sold to advertisers, or — in a case highlighted by the Wall Street Journal — be used to manage online pricing in order to charge more to certain consumers. In a particularly worrisome example, it appears insurance companies may be using data from social media to decide what kind of coverage they offer customers and at what cost.

Market Minute

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Finance Minister Jim Flaherty puts on his annual pre-budget shoes at the Roots Leather Factory in Toronto on Wednesday. A cabinet colleague has criticized Flaherty's intervention in the mortgage market. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cabinet scuffle. Flaherty should have kept nose out of mortgage rates, Tory minister argues

Not everyone in the Conservative cabinet is backing Jim Flaherty's latest intervention in the mortgage market.

Small Business Minister Maxime Bernier says he believes the finance minister overstepped his bounds by having his office phone Manulife Financial and ask they withdraw their discount on five-year mortgages to 2.89 per cent from 3.09.

Bernier told reporters he would not have done it. "Me, personally, I would not dictate to businesses what prices to decide," he said. "It's the market. It's supply and demand that decides the prices. It is the case for interest rates, it is the case for other products too." In the House of Commons later, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair questioned which minister — Bernier or Flaherty — speaks for the government. "Which minister has the prime minister's confidence, the minister of small business or the minister of finance?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dissension in the ranks

"Me, personally, I would not dictate to businesses what prices to decide."
Small Business Minister Maxime Bernier

BlackBerry co-founders

$100M fund aims to make Waterloo leader in quantum computing

BlackBerry co-founders Mike Lazaridis and Doug Fregin have established a $100-million fund to commercialize quantum computing, an emerging field they say could revolutionize information technology.

They say the Waterloo, Ont. region could be a focal point for new jobs and new industries, much as California's Silicon Valley became a hub for advances in conventional computing.

Lazaridis and Fregin collaborated to found the company formerly known as Research In Motion in 1984, which became Canada's leading high-tech company through its pioneering efforts in smartphones. The company recently changed its name to BlackBerry.

Fregin, 53, retired from RIM in 2007 after serving as vice-president of operations.

Lazaridis is the more prominent of the two, having served as co-chairman and co-CEO with Jim Balsillie until early last year when they were replaced in those posts by Thorsten Heins. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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IT'S PRIME TIME FOR TV

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Sure, people are killing each other a lot these days, the economy always seems on the verge of collapsing, and the shrinking of chocolate bars continues unabated.

But you can't get me down, because this is the Golden Age of Television.

No other medium can compare. The Beatles came out with every style of pop music in the '60s, and musicians have been trying to catch up, copy or pay tribute ever since.

Movies peaked in the 1970s, when you could go watch The Godfather without being bombarded by tie-ins like a McBrando Triple Burger Combo complete with toy (Bullet-Riddled Sonny).

And the Internet, despite containing the total sum of human knowledge, hasn't figured out yet how to be more than society's porn stash.

But, ah, television. Television is in its sweet spot.

From masterpieces like The Wire and The Sopranos to epic works in progress like Game of Thrones and Mad Men, the last decade of television makes everything that came before it seem like Amateur 44 Minutes.

Just think: There was a time when people arguing the most complex character on television had to decide between Jed Clampett and Hoss Cartwright.

There was a time when the most impressive woman on television was Mary Tyler Moore because she had a job (!) and could throw that hat a lot higher than people believed possible with scrawny female arms.

There was a time when spoilers were only required for big summertime cliffhangers, like Who Borgified J.R.? It wasn't really required for, say, Home Improvement. ("This week, Tim Taylor (WARNING: SPOILER AHEAD) gets his wife mad at him and talks it out with Wilson. We'll discuss the repercussions of this shocker and what it means for the next 11 seasons.")

You can also see how far TV has come if you imagine current shows as old-style programs. "On a very special episode of Game of Thrones, Daenerys Stormborn has a heart-to-heart with her dragons when they take up smoking. King Joffrey enters a skateboarding competition, much to his mother's dismay. And Taylor Swift guest stars as Lady Diva Chanteuse, of House Brokenheart."

We can't even complain about bad television — and there's lots of it — because it's so easy to avoid now. Good TV is there for the buying, renting, streaming or downloading.

For the first time in its history, television has joined the best books and movies in rewarding an active mind. And we should grasp it while we can, because if popular culture has taught us anything, it's that the good stuff never lasts.

Whether this Golden Age of Television is a byproduct of our inability to deal with real-world wars, poverty and lack of chocolate on a planet that is spinning inexorably out of control is a question I will think about eventually — like, when Game of Thrones is over.

Shhh ... TV's on.

ZOOM

An artist within the animal

Works by four-legged, fin-footed and scaled creatures on display

Briana Velazquez and Christian Venegas look at footprints on canvas by the El Paso Zoo's elephants Tuesday inside the Asian Discovery Center.

Through Sunday, Texas' El Paso Zoo will be featuring the exhibit, called Color Coated, of paintings made by snakes, elephants, seals, meerkats and a few other creatures.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARK LAMBIE/EL PASO TIMES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A piece of artwork done by Ibu, a Sumatran orangutan, seen at the El Paso Zoo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Is worthy of time in the clink.

@Twitmericks:
There is quite an old Argentinian
Who has a new global dominion
The pontifex Francis
Had previous chances
But now won the conclave's opinion.

I also like this pope-related one from @Twitmericks:
There was an old fellow in Rome
In a church with a bloody big dome
Who said that's enough
Of this papacy stuff
I'm going to veg out at home

Comments

RE: Lululemon Pulls Yoga Pants Off Shelves For Being Too Revealing, published March 19

These pants are made in Asia and sold here for arms and legs! I'll never ever buy these ... the fake ones make my tush look just as nice! We all know people don't buy them for yoga ... C'MON!
Too_Sense posted to metronews.ca

Any publicity is good publicity, this is nothing more than a stunt.
jordangreen posted to metronews.ca

Some people DO buy them for yoga. Not everyone is a poser. It is not that surprising that so many people pose as fitness buffs by wearing the clothes they wear. There are always knock-offs, and that's cool, but the reality is they were designed to do a job. It should be OK if the byproduct is that it is also sexy. Why is that such a problem? Isn't it up to the buyer if the clothes are too revealing or not?

Man, this is so messed up, I would be inclined to think it is at least in part publicity. Another "wardrobe malfunction" LOL.
Ron Davies posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

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Saskatoon actor Michael Eklund in a scene from Ferocious. HANDOUT

The Ferocious journey that led Michael Eklund back home

Two movie releases this month. Acting career makes the travelling life a necessity for Saskatoon native

BACKSTAGE PASS
Simon Hiatt
saskatoon@metronews.ca

All the world is truly Michael Eklund's stage, as a burgeoning acting career has led to a somewhat nomadic existence.

"It's kind of like being a travelling gypsy; you don't know where you'll end up. Sometimes it's Dresden, sometimes its Los Angeles and sometimes you end up back home," Eklund said in a telephone interview from his current residence in Los Angeles.

The word "home" can mean several things for Eklund. He lived and worked in Vancouver for several years before making the move to Southern California.

However, he was recently able to return to the place where it all really began; Saskatoon, as the city hosted a premiere for Ferocious, a movie shot here in late 2011. It's a thriller that features a lot of local talent including his friend and co-star Kim Coates.

"That's what really made this movie special too, that family element. We're all so close and had so much fun shooting it. We're excited to release it to the world. It was a small movie that was made with special people."

Ferocious is wrapping up a two-week run in Saskatoon and will soon make the festival rounds as producers look for a wider distribution deal.

Eklund has had a month full of premieres as he also co-stars alongside Academy Award nominees Halle Berry and Abigail Breslin in The Call, which was the number two movie at the box office in North America last weekend, earning $17 million.

The movie was shot in his newly adopted hometown of Los Angeles and in it he plays a serial killer who torments Berry's character.

"I like playing the bad guys, I like playing the good guys, I haven't been typecast yet, which is great."

He'll play a smart guy in his next movie to be released, Errors of the Human Body, portraying a genetic scientist in the film which comes out April 19.

"I'm very fortunate," Eklund says of his recent success.

"I know it's important to enjoy it while it lasts, because as an actor you could be out of work tomorrow."

There seems to be little danger of that happening any time soon for Eklund. Just this week it was announced he will return to yet another city he can call home, Vancouver, to star in a yet untitled movie about nineteenth century photographer turned murderer Eadweard Muybridge.

"Canada's my home turf, it's a great place to work," Eklund said before adding with a laugh; "Basically I'm saying I'm a little homesick, okay?"

IMDB creds

While he is beginning to make a name for himself as a leading actor, Eklund has also had small roles in some major motion pictures during his career.

- **Other movies.** These include Watchmen, 88 Minutes and Heath Ledger's final movie The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus.

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Naomi Watts. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Naomi Watts digs deep with words on plastic surgery

Naomi Watts isn't ruling out plastic surgery as an option, but she does worry it might limit her job prospects.

"Never say never — and I certainly don't judge anyone who does it — but most of the characters I play are going through some kind of emotional turmoil, so my job requires me to have expression," Watts tells Australia's Good Health magazine.

"If my face was frozen, what right do I have to play that part? All the women who haven't (done) anything to their faces are still able to play great roles. And some of the ones who have done something have messed it up — they look freakish. Anyway, for me it's about playing women with rich lives. And the longer the life, the deeper the wrinkles."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

James Franco couldn't care less if you don't like what he does

James Franco has caught flak for his myriad film and art projects he's launched and academic degrees he's pursued, but he's not letting the haters get him down.

"Criticism can sting but not for long. At this point I've heard it all, good and bad. I can take anything," Franco tells Bullett magazine. "If anyone wants to say that my doing these things makes me a jerk, that's not about me — that's about people reacting to me. I don't need to be liked for anything I do."

He continued on about his haters and why they react the way they do.

"I put out a lot of different kinds of material, and maybe people read that as egotistical. Or maybe, since a lot of it does involve some aspect of me, they find it self-aggrandizing. But there's a long tradition of artists using themselves."

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Fall into fashion's future

After four gruelling fashion weeks — New York, London, Milan and Paris — we distilled the biggest themes that came down the runways. Here's what you can expect to wear next autumn.

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

Back to black

As far as New York goes, one message was clear: fall is going to be all about wearable clothes. And let's face it, nothing in your wardrobe is more versatile than black. It's no surprise then that the classic shade ruled the runways. Pair black items with white for another key trend.

SEEN HERE: RAG & BONE

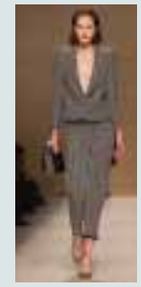
Plays on texture

Forget clothes in plain wool or cotton — designers used luxurious textured fabrics such as high-shine pony hair, wooly alpaca, sophisticated tweed and quilted leather to add a layer of interest to their fall looks.

SEEN HERE: LANVIN

Menswear inspired

Borrowing from the boys has been popular for the past few seasons. Designers furthered explored the trend for fall with slouchy, loose suiting.



SEEN HERE: BLUMARINE

Oversized coats

Besides the tremendous amount of fur on the runway (is PETA still doing their job?) there was another overwhelmingly ubiquitous outerwear trend: coats in oversized proportions and exaggerated cocoon shapes. Squeezing into a crowded subway in one of these is going to be fun.

SEEN HERE: ROCHAS

Pink gets its day

The colour pink gets a bad rap as an uncool girly-girl shade — but that's about to change. Come fall, expect to see stand-out items in every permutation of pink ranging from soft blush to bold fuchsia.

SEEN HERE: DKNY

There's a lady in the house

For those of you who don't do androgyny, feminine staples such as peplum tops, full skirts with longer hemlines and pencil skirts with cinched jackets gave collections a polished, lady-like feel.

SEEN HERE: ROCHAS

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Plaid and checks

Whether you go '90s grunge a la Saint Laurent or the more formal route with houndstooth and Prince of Wales check as shown at Tommy Hilfiger, expect to be part of the plaid parade come Fall.

SEEN HERE: SAINT LAURENT

Winter white

People anxious about getting side eyes for wearing white in the cold seasons can finally put that fear to rest. Designers showed full looks in dreamy pale shades.

SEEN HERE: GIAMBATTISTA VALLI

High slits

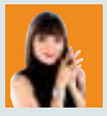
Are all the safe, wearable clothes putting you to sleep? Skirts and dresses with slits up to there added a sexy jolt to the fall shows.

SEEN HERE: GIVENCHY

Embellishments galore

This never really ever went out of style. But this show season, the decoration was especially in-your-face with shimmer on top of crystal on top of metal on top of feathers. No matter what your trimming of choice is, there was an option to choose from on the runway. **SEEN HERE: BURBERRY**

Twitter



JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

IN THIS HECTIC MODERN WORLD, TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

@Jeanne_Beker: About to blow out my candles!!! Wishing for ????????

@cd_dean: return of fashion tv, of course, we miss your keen eye and ability to smooze even the most diva of designers. Happy birthday.

@SeaAndBeScene: Happy Birthday Ms.Beker - eat cake & celebrate YOU!!! From your fans on Canada's East Coast (and there are a LOT of 'em) xo

@LindaFrum: Best birthday wishes to you Jeanne!

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Halifax

Tosan Ikomi

Student

Age: 23

What she's wearing
Scarf from Ethiopia, Vagabond vintage coat, Guess jeans, Winner purse, Aldo boots.

Her inspiration "I usually dress according to how I'm feeling, but this outfit was inspired by what a friend was wearing yesterday."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: MEGHAN TANSEY WHITTON, FASHIONEASTHALIFAX.COM

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM – AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

Yo! Let's kick up your backyard style! Ice is back with a brand new season

DIY ideas. Harness your inner rapping renovator

Barbecue season is fast approaching and your backyard is probably looking a little shabby.

If you didn't get your visit to a tropical island this winter it's time to forget the Ice, Ice Baby and incorporate your vacation dreams into your backyard.

Get a few tips from Vanilla Ice, host of The Vanilla Ice Project.

Landscape

To create a vacation spot in your backyard, start with rich foliage, large leaves and colours. When visiting your local gardening store don't be afraid to go overboard with greenery. In addition to plants that will surround your yard with a lush atmosphere, choose some that will vine and climb on fences which will create more privacy and a feeling of escape in your own backyard.

Water features

There's nothing that can compare to the serene sound of running water. It will instantly bring an element of calm and relaxation to your backyard oasis.

Placing a waterfall within your newly planted garden sounds lovely and can be made even more esthetically pleasing by surrounding it with a stone walkway for traction.

Tiki torches

To add extra light around your yard, Tiki lamps are a great accessory.

Purchasing citronella candles to put into your Tiki torches will help build a shield against mosquitoes, allowing you to spend more time in your backyard after the sun goes down.

Vanilla Ice is back to help you make the most of your backyard space. HANDOUT

Fire pit

Building a fire pit will allow you to spend much more time in your new backyard — not only longer into the evenings but also at the beginning and end of the summer, when nights can be cooler.

A fire pit also opens up the possibilities for outdoor activities like roasting marshmallows and hotdogs.

Canopies

Create a picture perfect backyard worthy of a magazine spread by adding a canopy over the generic stylings of tables, chairs and benches.

The option of a canopy-enclosed day bed is also a great touch, especially if you are lucky enough to have a pool in your backyard.

They instantly add movie star appeal to your outdoor style. Canopies bring a feeling of romance and luxury while dining outdoors or lying away from the sun while enjoying the summer breeze blowing through the drapes over you.

THE VANILLA ICE PROJECT, AIRING MONDAYS AT 9 P.M. ET/PT ON DIY NETWORK CANADA

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metro

Live on curly pasta edge with Sicilian-inspired Lamb Ragu

This is one of Nigella Lawson's go-to weeknight suppers. She says you can cook the ragu longer at a lower heat, if desired, but it's also perfect as is.

This recipe calls for pappardelle — those egg-rich, wide ribbons — but you can use whatever type of pasta you have on hand.

"Ragout" is French, "ragu" Italian, and this meat sauce is inspired by the Sicilian combination of sweet lamb, dried wild mint and crushed chili flakes, though Lawson said she has added an Anglo note with a little red currant jelly.

1. Put a large pan of water on to boil for the pasta and warm garlic oil in a small, heavy-based pan that comes with a lid; cook shallots, stirring for a minute or so.

2. Sprinkle in mint, oregano and red pepper flakes, stirring again in hot pan before adding meat. Cook for a couple of minutes, stirring to break it up with a wooden spatula or spoon, until it loses a bit of its pinkness.

3. Add tomatoes, red currant jelly, Worcestershire sauce, salt and some grindings of pepper, then give a good stir and bring to a bubble. Partially cover with the lid and simmer for 20 minutes.

4. At the appropriate time, salt the boiling water and cook pasta according to package instructions, making sure to check for readiness a couple of minutes before it's supposed to be done. Once cooked and not-too-efficiently drained, return pasta to pan and dress with lamb ragu.

5. Sprinkle a little bit of fresh mint onto each bowl, if desired, to serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ NIGELLISSIMA: EASY ITALIAN-INSPIRED RECIPES BY NIGELLA LAWSON (KNOPF CANADA, 2013).

Curly-Edged Pasta With Lamb Ragu

This recipe serves two. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) garlic-infused olive oil
- 1 banana shallot, chopped
- 5 ml (1 tsp) dried mint
- 5 ml (1 tsp) oregano
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) crushed red pepper flakes
- 250 g (8 oz) ground lamb
- 1 can (398 ml/14 oz) diced tomatoes
- 10 ml (2 tsp) red currant jelly
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) Worcestershire sauce
- Pinch salt, plus more for pasta water
- Freshly ground pepper
- 250 g (8 oz) pappardelle
- Handful fresh mint, to garnish (optional)

Cookbook of the Week

Flavours of Italy

Nigella Lawson calls her latest cookbook a love letter to Italy.

In the release called Nigellissima: Easy Italian-Inspired Recipes, Nigella Lawson offers up dishes that don't require inaccessible ingredients or techniques. That's because Nigellissima shows readers how a weeknight dish can be a faithful (and delicious) interpretation of traditional Italian fares.

"It's so nice to be able to cook with a handful of ingredients, most of which you can have at home and which doesn't require you to challenge yourself at the end of a busy day," she says.

"I cook the same way my readers do. In other words, I've got family, I've got a job, I'm not trained. I don't know how to chop a carrot with virtuoso speed, so my context is very similar."

Included are recipes like Italian Roast Chicken with Peppers and Olives; Short-cut Sausage Meatballs; Spaghetti with Tuna, Lemon and Arugula; Nutella Cheesecake, and more.

Lawson said with 500 Italian titles in her "obsessive cookbook collection," she doesn't expect to do anything new, but notes that Nigellissim is an everyday cookbook. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FILES FROM METRO**

JUNO WEEK EVENTS

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Experience pays off for Huskies' Thomaidis

Newly named national women's basketball team head coach Lisa Thomaidis stalks the sidelines at 2011 Summer Universiade in Shenzhen, China.

FRANCOIS LAPLANTE/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Women's basketball.
Canada Basketball goes with homegrown coach

Canada Basketball looked far and wide, but in the end, the best choice was right under its nose.

Lisa Thomaidis is taking the reins of Canada's senior women's team after 11 years as an assistant, making for what she believes will be a seamless changing of hands.

"A lot of that legwork is done: Your relationships have been established, my familiarity with the program, with Canada Basketball, with FIBA.... Hopefully it's very seamless," Thomaidis said on a conference call Wednesday.

The native of Dundas, Ont., is a two-time CIS and four-time Canada West coach of the year with the Saskatchewan Huskies, a job she'll continue.

Thomaidis succeeds Allison McNeill on the national team. McNeill brought respectability to the program before retiring in December after 11 years with the team, capped by its inspiring run to the quarter-finals at the London Olympics.

"There's no doubt about it that we've generated some great momentum in the past few years, especially culminating in London, and now we need to take that to the next level," Thomaidis said from Saskatoon.

Canada Basketball's CEO Wayne Parrish said there was significant interest from around the world in the position.

"The work that Allison and her assistant coaches had accomplished over the 11 years to get us to the Olympic quarter-finals was tremendous," he said. "We wanted to make sure we continued in that vein and reached out and were able to put in place the kind of leadership that would take us to another level in Rio and in 2020 and certainly the world championships in between here and there.

"In the end, we came back home."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Challenges ahead

The next test for the women's team is this fall's FIBA Americas Championship, the qualifying event for the 2014 world championships. After that, it's Olympic qualifying for the 2016 Rio Summer Games.

- While Canada's women's team has traditionally been a defensive force, Lisa Thomaidis said "there's no secret that we have to be a better offensive team to be in the next echelon of world powers."

Blades start playoff run in Saskatoon

The Saskatoon Blades are gearing up for their playoff run as they face off against the Medicine Hat Tigers on Thursday evening.

Saskatoon Blades head coach Lorne Molleken said the team is going to try to build on the momentum they picked up in the second half of the season.

"The biggest thing is that our effort is going to have to be one that is a new level," he said. "Playoffs are a different season, and obviously in preparation for this we've worked extremely hard on all aspects and just the overall belief that we can have success in the playoffs."

When asked what winning the Memorial Cup at home would mean for the hockey club, Molleken said the team is focusing on the task at hand.

Blades head coach Lorne Molleken speaks with media about the upcoming WHL playoffs at Credit Union Centre in Saskatoon on Wednesday afternoon.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

"We're not even thinking about the Memorial Cup; our focus is solely on the Medicine Hat Tigers. They're a team that works extremely hard. Our games against them this year have been very competitive, and we're going to need solid goaltending right out — it's going to be a team effort here if we're going to succeed," he said.

Blades captain Brenden Walker said the team doesn't plan on changing much as the club starts its playoff run.

"We just got to do the things we've been doing in the past few months," said Walker.

"We have a lot of confidence right now and we just got to make sure we are prepared against the teams that we're going to face. We know Medicine Hat really well, so we just got to do the little things that made us successful against them."

The puck drops for Game 1 of the seven-game series on Thursday at 7:05 p.m. MDT at Credit Union Centre.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

NHL

Players' union to get views on visors

The National Hockey League Players' Association plans to canvas its membership on visors.

Mathieu Schneider, a special assistant to NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr, said some 72 to 73 per cent of NHL players currently wear shields.

"By the sheer numbers of players wearing them, you're seeing a big change in visors," said Schneider.

"I'm certainly an advocate — and a bit of a hypocrite myself because I played my entire career without one. But the game's extremely fast. Guys come into the league now having had to wear a visor before. We're definitely going to look at talking to the guys about grandfathering them in."

That might involve polling the players on the issue. The last time they did that in 2009, players were "heavily" against grandfathering in visors, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Leafs put skid to bed vs. Lightning

Nazem Kadri had three assists and Joffrey Lupul added a goal and an assist as the Toronto Maple Leafs snapped a five-game winless streak with a 4-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Wednesday night.

Kadri and Lupul won the battle against the Lightning's top line, featuring Steven Stamkos and Martin St. Louis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Heat handle Cavs best in Cleveland

LeBron James scored 25 points as the Miami Heat overcame a 27-point deficit in the third quarter and won their 24th straight game 98-95 over the short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday night to extend the second-longest winning streak in NBA history.

The Heat are within nine games of matching the record of 33 consecutive wins held by the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Friends say you can do no wrong but for one reason or another you don't entirely believe them. Maybe you should reserve judgment until you feel more positive about yourself. When will that be? Any moment now.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You live by certain standards but you cannot expect everyone else to live by them too. Sometimes, you can be a bit too judgmental. The planets warn that the person you judge today could be the one judging you tomorrow.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Do you commit yourself to a course of action that could boost your reputation or do you play safe and leave things just as they are? You were born to take chances.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Everything you touch will turn out just right today. But don't get carried away as the planets warn your gains could be wiped out if you push your luck too far. Know when to stop.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The only pressure you will feel today is the pressure you choose to put on yourself. Whatever your problems, push them to one side and focus only on things that make you happy.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You seem to be on the verge of accepting some kind of deal, and it certainly looks good. But appearances can be deceptive and the planets warn you should wait a day or two.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
By all means, tell the truth today but expect some kind of backlash for your honesty. Other people will not be happy if you point out their failings, so ask yourself: Is it really worth opening my mouth?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Even if you are following a path you have taken before, you could fall on your face today. That does not mean you should stay home — just watch where you put your feet!

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may be confident that a scheme of some kind cannot fail but don't expect too much of it right away. The omens are good for the long-term but in the short-term there may be one or two setbacks.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You believe in telling it as you see it, which is good. But some people can be super sensitive to criticism, so don't overdo it. Tone down your comments a bit today so you are less likely to get a negative reaction.

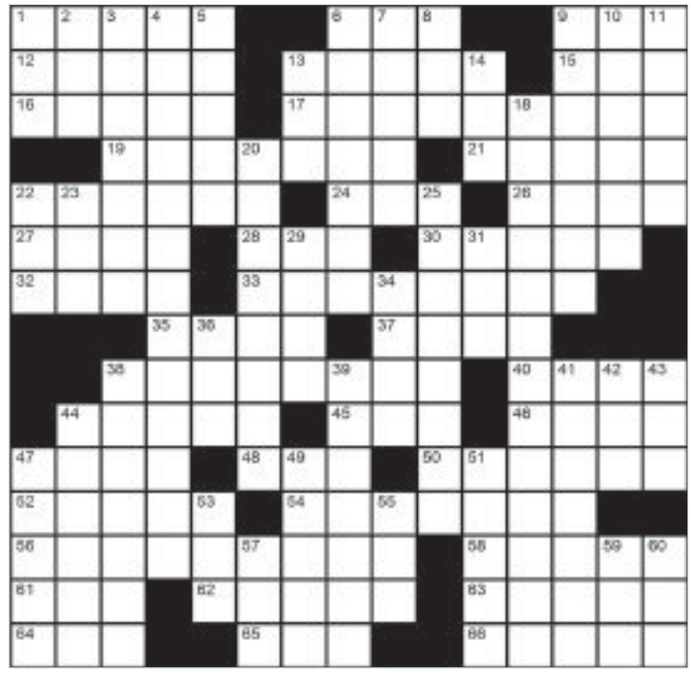
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Some people prefer to get others to help them rather than do things for themselves and one such person is beginning to annoy you. Let them know in no uncertain terms that you will no longer indulge their laziness.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be tempted to ditch a project that has already been started and begin all over again but is that truly necessary? No, it's not. It will come out right.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

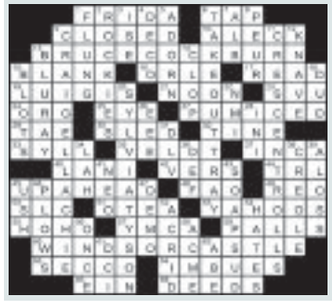
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Ms. Lake of TV talk
6. Inc., in England
9. Booker T.'s backup
12. Walk _ __ line
13. __ corn: 2 wds.
15. Queen's "We __ the Champions"
16. "You can __ _ horse to water..."
17. Seth Rogen flick, with The: 2 wds.
19. Connecting-stuff-to-a-PC spot, _ _ _ ___
21. Wander
22. Spa treatment
24. "The Addams Family" cousin
26. 911 respondents
27. Secret __. (Alias)
28. Dined
30. Roy __, Robert Redford's "The Natural" (1984) role
32. Ernie's muppet friend
33. Fajita need
35. Crown getter
37. Latin hymn: "Dies __"
38. Back together
40. Face part
44. Jacket sported by a '60s rocker
45. Ex-Bruin Bobby
46. Honeymaker's home
47. _ ___ _ (Edmonton sch.)
48. Chairman in The Beatles' "Revolution"
50. Spoke from the podium
52. Fishhook line
54. Beavers, whilst using their teeth
56. Toronto-based romance novel publisher
58. "Going to _ __-__" by Smokey Robinson & The Miracles
61. Scot's uncle
62. Kelly Clarkson's "Since _ __ Gone"
63. Camping needs
64. Riddle-me-__
65. "Hiss!"
66. Toronto football players, to fans

Down
1. Singer Mr. Donner
2. 'Favour' suffix
3. The Canterbury†Tales writer
4. Canuck sketch comedy troupe: The __: 4 wds.
5. "Dancing with the Stars" judge Carrie Ann
6. Sir Wilfrid __
7. Country singer, Travis __
8. Cdn. currency
9. Xylophone-like instrument
10. Defrauds
11. Sevens: French
13. Inflated id
14. Bouquet delivery co.
18. "Brand New Low" band from Sault Ste. Marie: 2 wds.
20. "Doesn't Really Matter" by __ Blonde
22. Little lie
23. 'Lemon' suffix
25. Fairly-near-the-stage area: 2 wds.
29. Ms. Spelling
31. 'Pay' suffix
34. Level
36. Italy's li'l locale
38. Sports official
39. Two-dollar coins
41. NYC's Brill Building output: 2 wds.
42. "__ Got a Feeling" by The Beatles
43. Heath Ledger/Orlando Bloom movie, "__ Kelly" (2003)
44. Generic grocery store brand: 2 wds.
47. One-named male vocalist
49. Chills
51. Ranch in "Giant" (1956)
53. Currency in Romania
55. Ms. Jillian
57. Some CFL players
59. Ronny & The Daytonas smash
60. Old spy gr.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

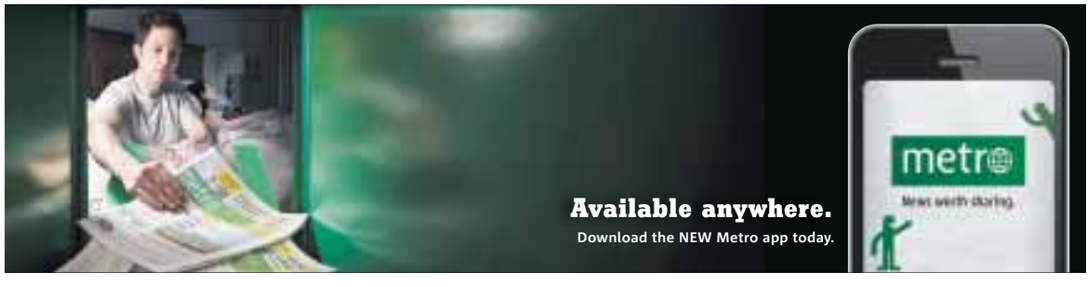
How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	9	5				3	7	
			2		1			
7	8			9			1	4
		1	7		9	4		
5								7
		4	1		6	8		
2	1			6			4	3
			3		4			
	3	6				2	8	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	9	8	3	4	6	2	5	7
4	7	6	5	2	1	8	3	9
3	5	2	7	8	9	1	4	6
8	3	7	9	5	2	6	1	4
2	4	5	6	1	7	3	9	8
6	1	9	4	3	8	7	2	5
9	6	3	1	7	4	5	8	2
5	2	4	8	6	3	9	7	1
7	8	1	2	9	5	4	6	3

Today -7°/-12° Drifting snow 80%
Friday -9°/-14° Flurries 60%
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data



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